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Study of the biology of some fish species (Bouira)

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Thanks

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We also thank Mrs **LAMRI Naziha** for agreeing to review this work.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to all the people who contributed greatly to its success.

Dedication

I dedicate this modest work :

To my dearest parents

To my dear brothers and sister

To all the family

To my dear friends

Dear buddy

To you dear reader

Selma

Dedication

I dedicate this modest work :

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Dear buddy

To you dear reader

Chaima

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Summary

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Introduction

Introduction

Water plays an important role in the world, it is a source of life for all species, (Vu, 2008).

Fish is one of the most studied vertebrate species as it is of great ecological and economic importance (Salhi 2022). More than 28,000 species are identified, classified as freshwater and seawater fish (Sebastien., 2011).

Algeria has been affected by the introduction of new fish species. According to Brahmia (2016), it is for the purpose of promoting aquaculture (carp, tilapia...); some introductions also aim to occupy ecological niches and water bodies poor in fish.

Work on freshwater ichthyofauna in Algeria has not been as developed as for marine ecosystems. Available studies focus mainly on species classification and rarely on their environment or geographical distribution (Almaça, 1969 ; Penczak and Molinski, 1984 ; Bouhaddad, 1993 ; Bouhadad and Asselah, 1998). Few authors have been interested in the study of reproduction and growth (Arab, 1989 ; Djoudad-Kadji *et al.*, 2012 ; Attal and Arab, 2013 ; Djoudad-Kadji, 2014 ; Mimeche *et al.*, 2015).

The objective of our work is to provide more information on the biology of differential freshwater fish species inhabiting different freshwater bodies of the wilaya de Bouira (Talesdit dam, Oued Lakhel and Oued Isser dam).

Our work focuses on :

- Bibliographic summary of general information on freshwater fish ;
- Description of equipment and methods used ;
- Exposure and discussion of results ;
- A conclusion.

Chapter 01 : Bibliographic Synthesis

Chapter 01 : Bibliographic Synthesis

I. General information on fish

I.1. Definition of Fish

Fish are aquatic animals with gill respiration (Ould Mokhtar, 2020). Approximately 24,500 species are recognized due to various morphological, anatomical and physiological characteristics (Morsi 2016).

I.2. Fish classification

Today the fish are divided into: The Chondrichthyens (cartilaginous fishes) and the Osteichthyes (bony fishes) (Boudjenane and Safa, 2019).

A. Cartilaginous fish

Sharks and rays are made up of a fully cartilaginous skeleton (Oumar, 2015).

B. Bony fish

Several groups of bony fish are grouped together. These are vertebrates with a more or less bony skeleton and a symmetrical caudal fin (Oumar, 2015).

I.3. Fish morphology

Fish are animals that breathe underwater thanks to their gills. Their entire body is covered with scales and it moves by moving its fins (fig.1) (Morsi, 2016)

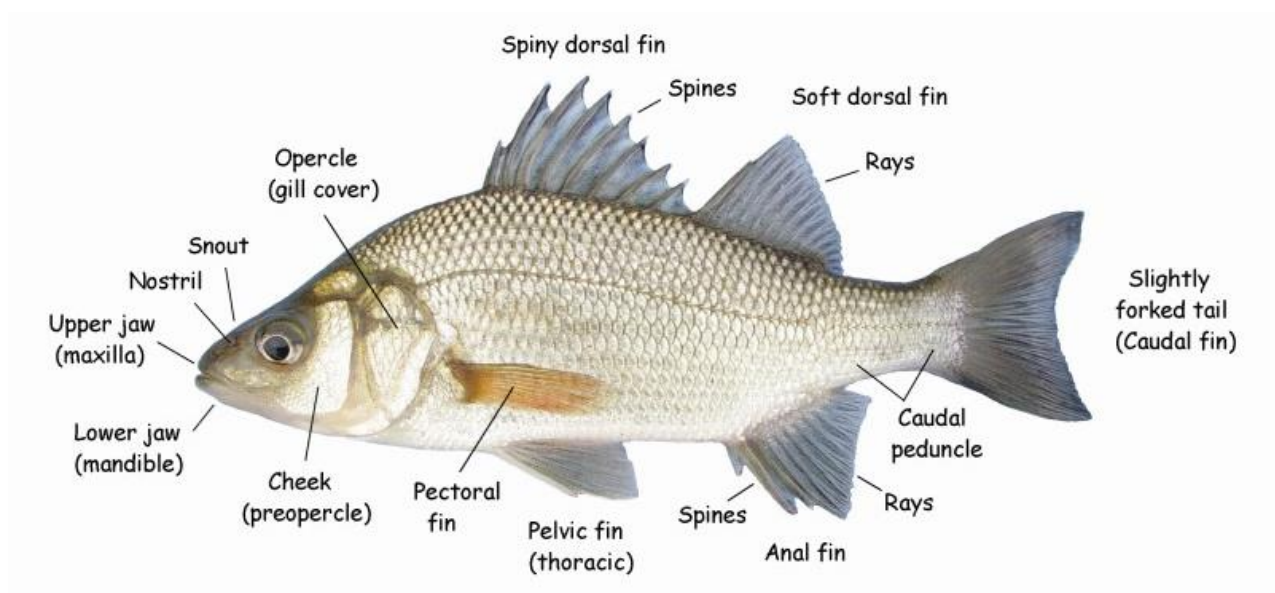


Figure 1 : Fish morphology (Anonymous 1)

Chapter 01 : Bibliographic Synthesis

II. Freshwater fish

Includes all species that spend at least part of their life cycle in freshwater for growth and/or reproduction (Boudjenane and Safa, 2019).

II.1. The main freshwater species in Algeria

The ichthyofauna has been recorded with 67 species divided into 27 families and 45 genera. They include 47 native species, 6 endemics to North Africa and 20 introduced. The Cyprinidae family (11 genera and 18 species) is the largest in Algeria, followed by the Cichlidae (5 genera and 8 species) and the Mugilidae (3 genera and 5 species). The other families consist of only one or two species (Lounaci 2012).

Table 1: List of freshwater fishes in Algeria (Lounaci, 2012)

Familles	Espèces
Cyprinidae	<i>Alburnus alburnus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
	<i>Aristichtys nobilis</i> (Richardson, 1845)
	<i>Barbus amguidensis</i> (Pellegrin, 1934)
	<i>Barbus biscarensis</i> (Boulanger, 1911)
	<i>Barbus callensis</i> (Valenciennes,
	<i>Barbus deserti</i> (Pellegrin, 1909)
	<i>Barbus meridionalis</i> (Risso, 1827)
	<i>Barbus moulouyensis</i> (Pellegrin, 1924)
	<i>Barbus setivimensis</i> (Valenciennes, 1842)
	<i>Carassius auratus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
	<i>Ctenopharyngodon idellus</i> (Valenciennes, 1844)
	<i>Cyprinus carpio carpio</i> (Linné, 1758)
	<i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i> (Valenciennes, 1844)
	<i>Pseudorasbora parva</i> (Schlegel, 1842)
	<i>Pseudophoxinus callensis</i> (Guichenot, 1850)
	<i>pseudophoxinus punicus</i> (Pellegrin, 1920)
	<i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i> (Linné, 1758)
<i>Tinca tinca</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	
Cichlidae	<i>Haplochromis desfontainii</i> (Lacépède, 1802)
	<i>Hemichromis bimaculatus</i> (Gill, 1862)
	<i>Hemichromis stellifer</i> (Loiselle, 1979)

Chapter 01 : Bibliographic Synthesis

	<i>Oreochromis macrochir macrochir</i> (Boulanger, 1912)
	<i>Oreochromis mossambicus</i> (Peters, 1852)
	<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
	<i>Sarotherodon borkuanus</i> (Pellegrin, 1919)
	<i>Tilapia zillii</i> (Gervais, 1848)
Mugilidae	<i>Chelon labrosus</i> (Risso, 1827)
	<i>Liza aurata</i> (Risso, 1810)
	<i>Liza ramada</i> (Risso, 1810)
	<i>Liza saliens</i> (Risso, 1810)
	<i>Mugil cephalus</i> (Linné, 1758)
Cyprinodontidae	<i>Aphanius apodus</i> (Gervais, 1853)
	<i>Aphanius fasciatus</i> (Valenciennes, 1821)
	<i>Aphanius iberus</i> (Valenciennes, 1846)
	<i>Aphanius saourensis</i> (Blanco, Hrbek & Doadrio, 2006)
Atherinidae	<i>Atherina boyeri</i> (Risso, 1810)
	<i>Atherina presbyter</i> (Cuvier, 1829)
Carcharhinidae	<i>Carcharias limbatus</i> (Müller & Henle, 1839)
	<i>Carcharias melanopterus</i> (Gaymard, 1824)
Clariidae	<i>Clarias anguillaris</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
	<i>Clarias gariepinus</i> (Burchell, 1822)
Clupeiidae	<i>Alosa alosa</i> (Linné, 1758)
	<i>Alosa fallax</i> (Lacepède, 1803)
Gasterosteidae	<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus aculeatus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
	<i>Pomatoschistus pictus</i> (Malm, 1865)
Labriidae	<i>Symphodus roissali</i> (Risso, 1810)
	<i>Symphodus tinca</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
Moronidae	<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> (Linné, 1758)
	<i>Dicentrarchus punctatus</i> (Bloch, 1792)
Poeciliidae	<i>Gambusia affinis</i> (Baird et Girard 1853)
	<i>Gambusia holbrooki</i> (Girard, 1859)
Sciaenidae	<i>Salmo trutta macrostigma</i> (Duméril, 1858)
	<i>Umbrina cirrosa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
Acipenseridae	<i>Acipenser sturio</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)

Chapter 01 : Bibliographic Synthesis

Alestiidae	<i>Brycinus macrolepidotus</i> (Valenciennes, 1850)
Anguillidae	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i> (Linné, 1758)
Blennidae	<i>Salaria fluviatilis</i> (Asso, 1801)
Centrarchidae	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i> (Lacepède, 1802)
Esocidae	<i>Esox lucius</i> (Linné, 1758)
Percidae	<i>Sander lucioperca</i> (Linné, 1758)
Petromyzontidae	<i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
Pleuronectidae	<i>Platichthys flesus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
Salmonidae	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> (Walbaum, 1792)
Siluridae	<i>Silurus glanis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
Sphyraenidae	<i>Sphyraena viridensis</i> (Cuvier, 1829)
Syngnathidae	<i>Syngnathus abaster</i> (Risso, 1827)

II.2. Anatomy

Fish have a great anatomical diversity depending on their lifestyle, whether benthic (living near the bottom) or pelagic (living on the surface).

The brain, ears, and eyes are sensory organs whose anatomy can vary according to the environment and lifestyle (Kassem, 1987).

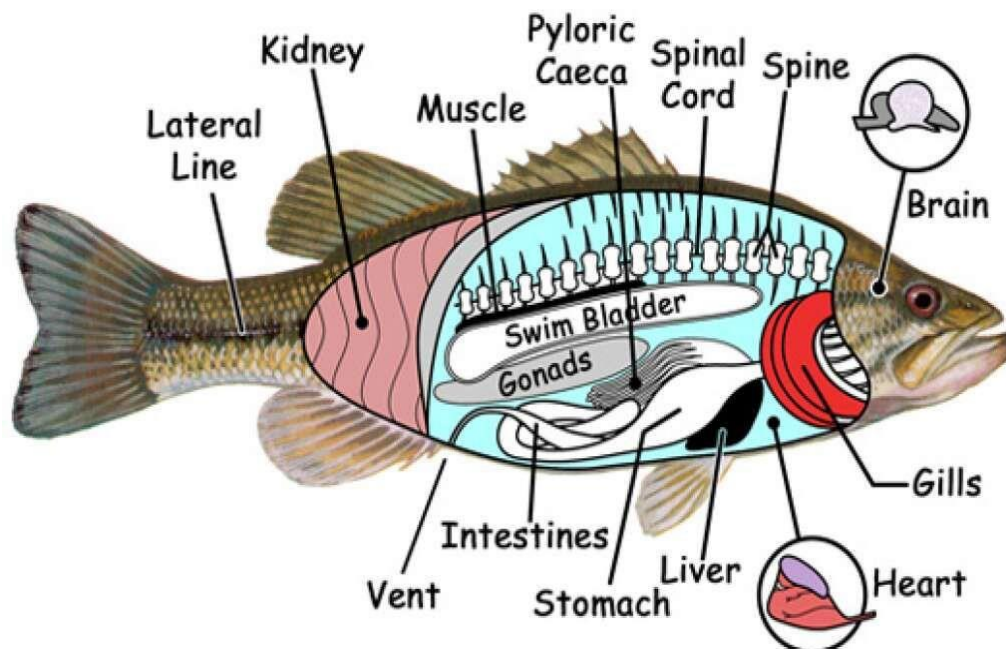


Figure 2: The anatomy of fish (Anonymous 2)

Chapter 01 : Bibliographic Synthesis

III. Freshwater Fish Biology

III.1. Diet

Some freshwater fish species are carnivorous and feed on small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic animals; some are herbivores and feed only on algae or aquatic plants; and others are omnivores and feed on both plants and animals (Lauzanne, 1988; Hangard-Vidaud *et al.*, 1989).

III.2. Reproduction

Freshwater fish have adopted a variety of reproductive strategies to adapt to their environment. Some species practice external fertilization (called oviparous), where the eggs are fertilized in water after laying. Some use an ovoviviparous mode of reproduction, where the eggs develop and hatch inside the female's body. Other species are viviparous, the young develop completely inside the mother's body, nourished by a real placenta, this mode of reproduction is very rare in freshwater fish, but it is found in some shark species (Poinsot 2017).

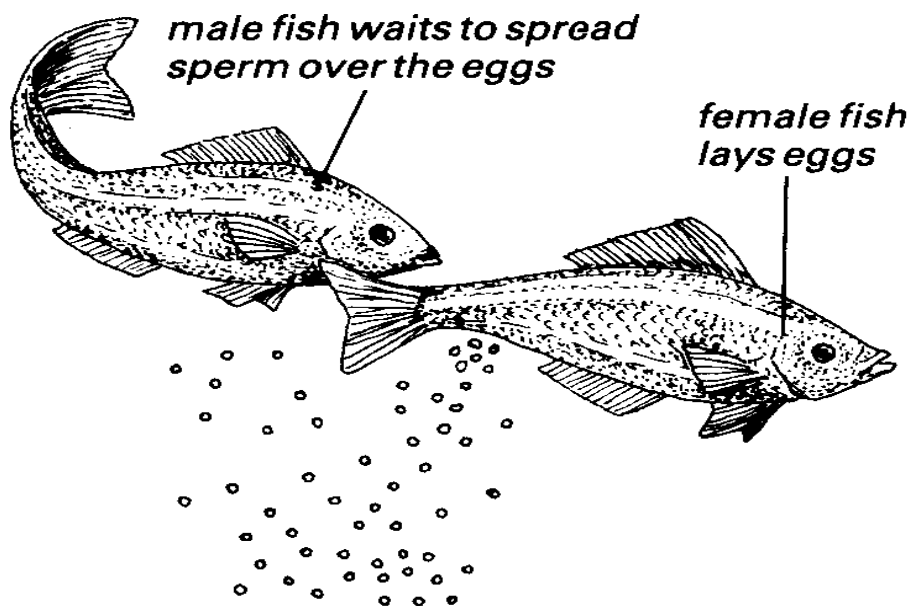


Figure 3: Reproduction in fish (Anonymous 3)

IV. Growth

The study of growth involves knowing the age of the fish or, if this is not possible, the average age of the current population (Do-Chi 1977).

The age of fish is estimated by directly reading various biological parts such as scales, otoliths or opercular bones (Fritsch, 2005).

Chapter 2 : Materials and Methods

Chapter 2 : Materials and Methods

I. Presentation of the study area

I.1. Presentation and location of Oued Lakhel

The Oued Lakhel dam fed by the Wadi Lakhel is located in the wilaya of Bouira, 5 km southeast of the city of Ain Bessam. The useful capacity of its reservoir is 30 hm³, which allows an annual regularization of 20 hm³. It is planned to be used to provide drinking and industrial water to the regions of Ain Bessam and Sour El-Ghozlane, as well as for the irrigation of the Arribs plains (fig.4) (Hamenni, Mesbah, and Semar, 2015).

I.2. Presentation and location of the Oued Isser

The Wadi Isser is located in northern Algeria. The study area is bounded by the daïra of Drâa El Mizane to the northeast, by the wilaya of Bouira to the southeast, by the daïra of Ain Boucif to the south, by the daïra of Ksar El Boukhari and the wilaya of Medea to the southwest, by the dairas of Tablat and Larbâa to the northwest and by the Mediterranean Sea to the northwest. The watershed of the Isser wadi covers an area of 4126 km². It has a shape very close to a south-west/north-east quadrilateral (fig.4) (Houari and Zeggane, 2017)

I.3. Presentation and location of the Tilesdit dam

The TILES DIT dam is located in Bechloul, 18 km east of Bouira. its reservoir is intended to provide drinking water to the population of the wilaya of Bouira, and also irrigates the land in this region and neighbouring regions such as Bordj Bou Arreridj and M'sila (fig.4) (ANBT, 2015).

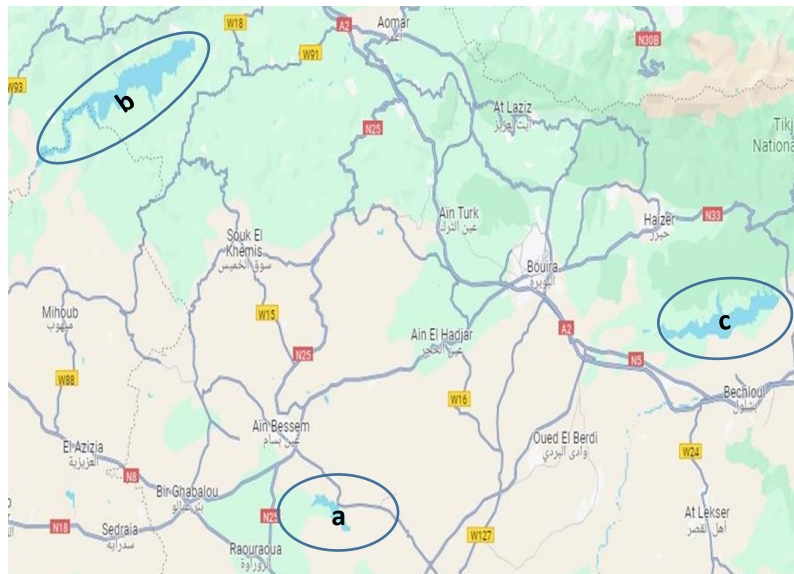


Figure 4: location of the three dams (Google map, 2024)

a: Barrage Oued Lakhel, b: Oued Isser, c: Barrage Tilesdit.

II. Sample Sampling and Processing

II.1. Sampling

The sampling was carried out between March and May 2024 by Bendiaf and Dahmani (Master 2 students in Biodiversity and Environment at the University of Bouira). The fish were caught randomly using a fishing rod and a fishing net.

II.2. Sample Identification

The identification of fish species was based on several criteria:

II.2.1. Body shape

The body shapes of fish vary according to their lifestyle. It is possible to arbitrarily classify them according to body elongation using the standard length-to-body height (L/H) ratio (Raskef and Tadge, 2023).

II.2.2. The head

Fish have eyes, nostrils, mouths, and gills with opercula on their heads, except for lampreys which have gill slits (Desroches and Picard 2017).

The different types of fish can be recognized by looking at two simple things: the size of their mouth (small, medium, or large) and where it is (top, tip, bottom, or that can move forward) (fig.7) (Teletchea, 2020).

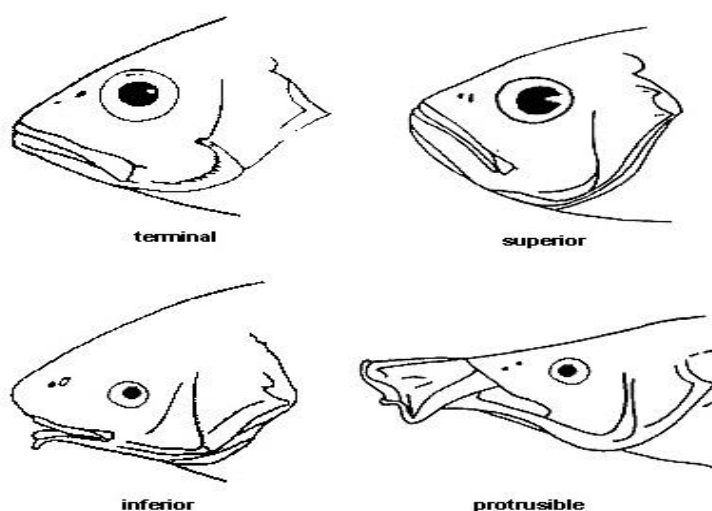


Figure 5: Different identification criteria present on the head (Hassan, 2013)

II.2.3. Color

Color plays a vital role in identification. This color can differ from one species to another, depending on the environment, the stage of development (juvenile, adult) and the sex (male or female). The markings of some species are: vertical or horizontal stripes on the body and spots of various sizes and colors on the operculum or on the flanks (Teletchea, 2020).

II.2.4. Fins

The fins help the fish to move. The place on the animal's body is an important characteristic for differentiating groups of fish of the same order (Raskef and Tadge, 2023). The fins of all fish are not identical, they are made up of combs grouped by a membrane that guarantees good absorption in the water. They can be even (pelvic, anal and pectoral) or odd (dorsal and caudal) (fig.8), formed by solid spiny rays and flexible and segmented soft rays (Desroches and Picard, 2017 and Boudjenane and Safa, 2019).

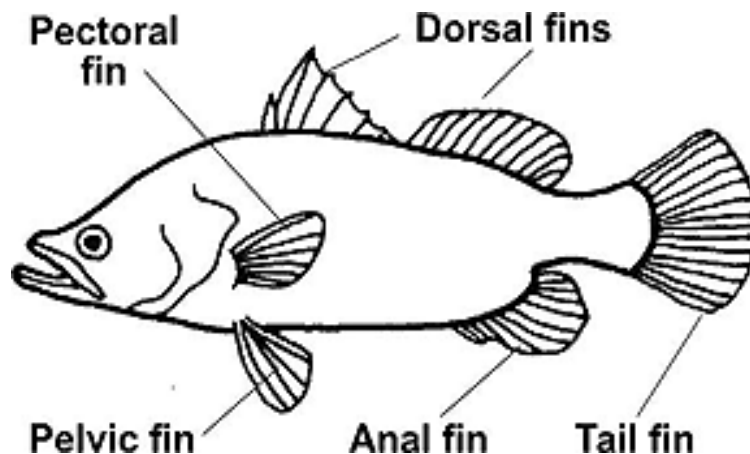


Figure 6: Anatomy of a fish (Desroches and Picard, 2017).

- *Types and shape of fins:*

According to Desroches and Picard (2017), there are six types of fins in freshwater fishes:

- *The pectoral fins* are located behind the opercula, on the sides.
- *The pelvic fin* allows the fish to change its trajectory, to speed up or slow down, it plays a stabilizing role. It has three different positions (fig.09): either far behind the body (abdominal), or just behind the pectorals (thoracic), or in front of the pectorals (jugulars)

Chapter 2 : Materials and Methods

(Teletchea, 2020).

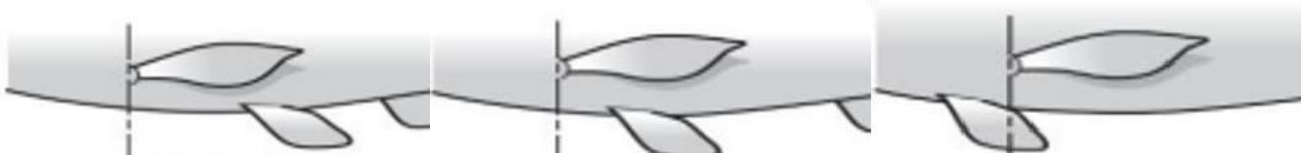


Figure 7 : Different pelvic fin positions (Teletchea, 2020).

- *The anal fin* is located just behind the cloaca, under the belly of the fish. It acts as a stabilizer like the keel of a ship.
- *The dorsal fin* is located on the back of the fish; it plays an essential role in stability. They can have soft, spiny rays or have both types of rays. Only the first ray or those of the anterior part of the fin are spiny in the latter case. They can be very far apart (separated), very close (juxtaposed) or glued together, which creates a long (fused) fin (fig.10) (Desroches and Picard, 2017).

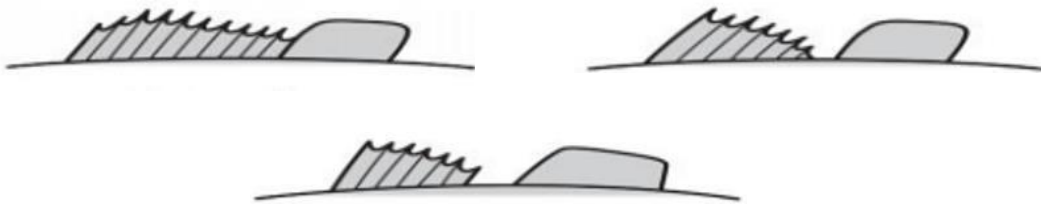


Figure 8 : Different dorsal fin shapes (Teletchea, 2020).

- *The adipose fin* is found on the back or caudal peduncle of the fish, between the dorsal fin and the caudal fin.
- *The caudal fin* is located at the end of the caudal peduncle, forming the tail of the fish. It is used for propulsion and, in some species, to move particles through the water to make the nest. The caudal fin has a variety of shapes, such as forked, indented, truncated, rounded, or even heterocercal, i.e. asymmetrical and with an upper lobe that extends well beyond the lower lobe (fig.11) (Desroches and Picard, 2017).

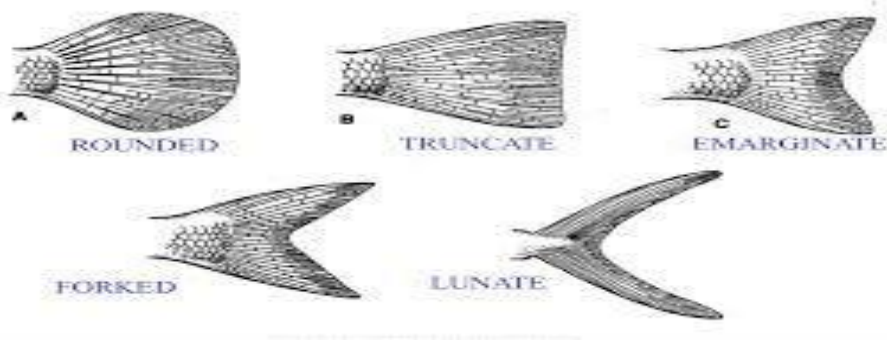


Figure 9 : The different shapes of caudal fins (Teletchea, 2020).

II.2.5. The lateral line

The lateral line is a tubular canal located under the scales and skin of fish (fig.12). It can be seen on the outside thanks to the series of pores into which it flows. Lateral line pressure allows fish to avoid obstacles or locate prey (Muus and Dahlstrom 1991).

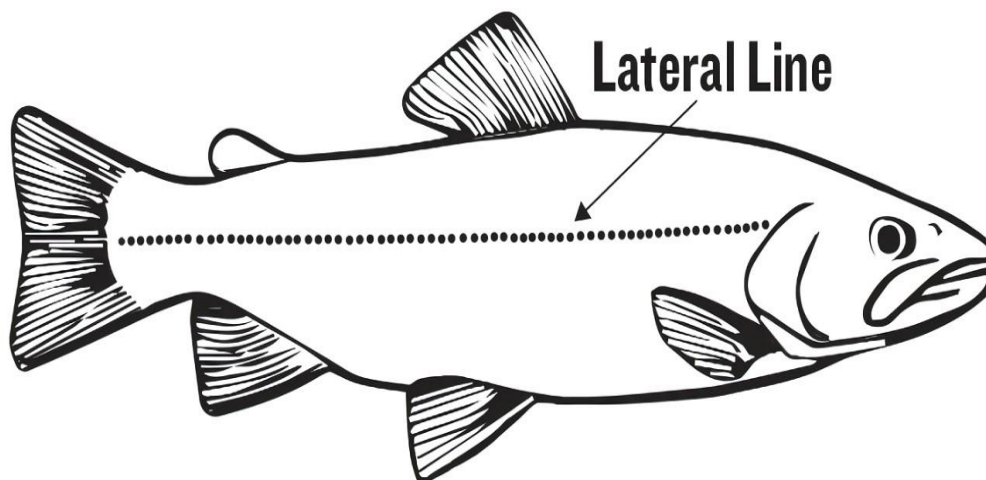


Figure 10 : The lateral line of the fish (Desroches and Picard 2017).

II.3. Sample Processing

All samples were measured to the nearest centimeter and weighed to the nearest milligram using a ruler and a 0.01g precision balance, respectively.

Lt: Total length, represents the distance between the tip of the mouth and the caudal fin.

Lf: Fork length, the length of the fish between the snout and the fork of the caudal fin.

Ls: Standard length, measured from the anterior end of the snout to the beginning of the caudal

fin.

Wt: total weight of the fish before dissection.

We: Eviscerated weight or weight of the empty fish.

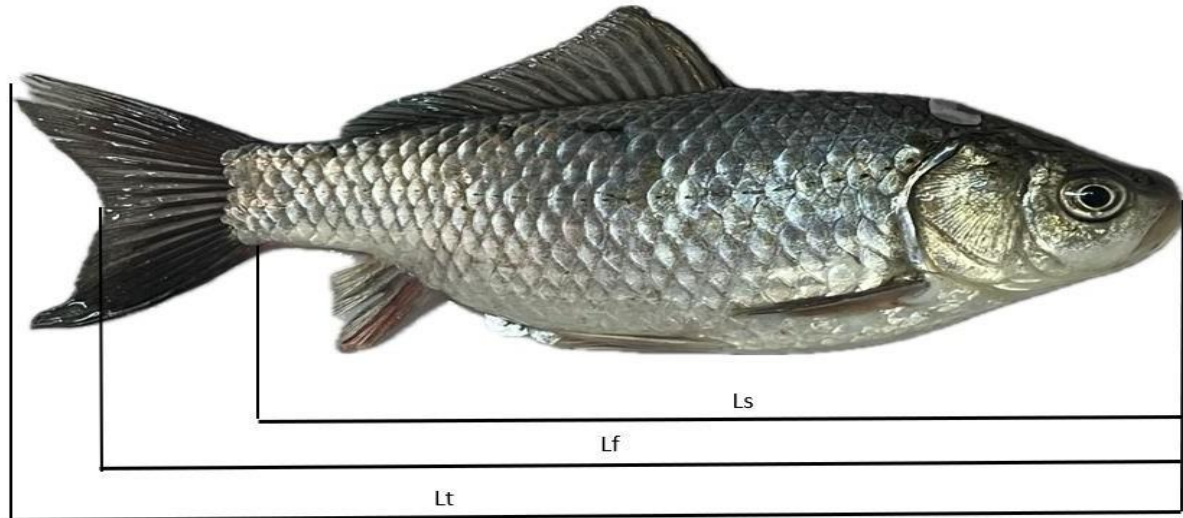


Figure 11 : Photograph representing different lengths measured.

II.4. Growth study

II.4.1. Age estimation

Two techniques were used to estimate age: scalimetry and otolithometry.

A- Scalimetry

The scales used were collected in the left laterodorsal part. It is in this region that scales appear earliest (Boët and Le Louarn, 1985). After collection, the scales were cleaned with water, rubbed between the fingers to remove mucus, and then examined under a magnifying glass to remove those that are reforming or changing in the centre (do-chi 1977).

- **Reading**

Age is often determined by measuring scales and observing the variations recorded in them. Dense areas, where growth is slow and narrow, follow one another with light areas, where growth is fast and wide. The two alternating zones represent a year in the life of the fish (fig.14). The scales are read using a binocular magnifying glass.

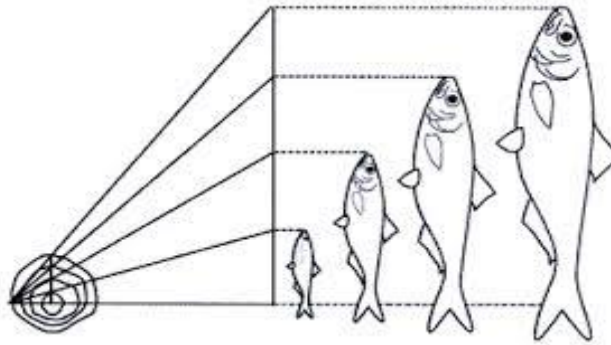


Figure 12 : fish scales (Morsi, 2016).

B- Otolithometry

Otolithometry is used to assess the age and growth of fish by examining their otoliths, which are small mineral structures found in the inner ear of fish. Otoliths are marked by visible microzonations that make it possible to determine the number of days (daily striations) or years (annual rings) that have elapsed since the conception of the fish (fig.15) (Loubens, G, 1978).



Figure 13: Otolith reading (Hardie and Hutchings 2011).

II.4.2. The Height-Weight Relationship

Allometry is a mathematical relationship that explains how the weight of a living being changes according to its size, thus making it possible to estimate one by knowing the other. This relationship is often represented by an equation (Bougis, 1976):

$$Wt = a L^b$$

With:

Wt : total weight of the fish (g)

a : constant.

L : Total length (cm)

Chapter 2 : Materials and Methods

b : coefficient of allometry.

The type of growth is determined in terms of b:

b=3 : growth isometrics between weight and length.

b<3 : diminishing allometry (the cube of the length grows faster than the weight).

b>3 : major allometry (the weight grows faster than the cube of the length).

II.4.3. Fulton condition coefficient where the weight index

The Fulton condition coefficient is used to assess fish weight balance and growth rates (Morsi 2016). The standard condition coefficient is calculated by the following formula:

$$K = (W_e / L_t^3) \times 100$$

Where:

W_e: eviscerated weight;

L_t: the total length

The assessment of the condition factor was conducted globally and by separate sex based on the total length of the fish (Morsi 2016).

II.5. Study of reproduction

The reproduction of freshwater fish is an important topic that has been the subject of many studies.

II.5.1. Sex Determination

Sex determination is done directly after dissection. The poorly gonads are flattened and of a whitish coloration, and the female gonads are round with a pinkish coloration (fig.16) (Morsi, 2016).

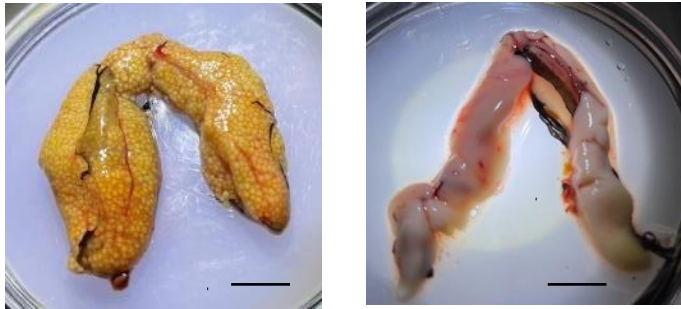


Figure 14 : Photograph of a female gonad (A) male gonad (B); scale bar: 1 cm.

II.5.2. Sex ratio study

The proportion between the sexes is an important factor in ensuring the reproductive capacity of a species (Dermeche *et al.*, 2009) The sex ratio simply indicates the distribution between the sexes. According to Lamrini (1983), the proportion of individuals of each sex in a given population is the ratio between the number of males and females:

$$SR = Nm/Nf$$

- Sex ratio: $(Nm / Nm+Nf) \times 100$
- Femininity rate: $(Nf / Nm+Nf) \times 100$
 - SR: Sex Ratio
 - Nm: number of males
 - Nf: number of females

II.5.3. The gonado-somatic relationship

To calculate the gonado-somatic ratio, it is essential to determine the reproductive period (Bougis, 1952). The latter can be considered as a real indicator of maturity (Lahaye, 1979). This ratio is different according to sex and age, and makes it possible to measure the increase in gonads during the sexual cycle (Hattour, 2000 and 2001; Roche *et al.* 2003). The RGS is calculated using the following expression (Bougis, 1952).

$$RGS = (Wg / We) \times 100$$

Where:

Wg: weight of the gonads

Ew: eviscerated weight

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I. fish identification

The sampling carried out in the Talesdit dam, Oued Isser and Oued lakhal, allowed us to identify 5 species of fish belonging to the Cyprinidae family.

Table 02 shows the size and weight (maximum and minimum) of these species. The *Cyprinus carpio* species is the largest, with a length of 55 cm, and has the highest weight (2 kg 500).

Table 2: Numbers, size and weight of fish species sampled.

<i>cash</i>	Staff	Nm	Nf	Ni	Lt max	Pt max
					Lt min (cm)	Min Pt (g)
<i>Carassius autarus</i>	38	1	35	2	Max Lt: 24cm	Pt max :222 g
					Lt min: 11 cm	Min Pt :20 g
<i>Carassius carassius</i>	9	2	7	0	Max Lt:22 cm	Max Pt :149 g
					Lt min: 11 cm	Min Size:22 g
<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	2	0	1	1	Max Lt :55 cm	Max Size:2 kg 500
					Min Lt : 14.2 cm	Min Size:40 g
<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>	1	0	0	1	Max Lt: 14.3cm	Max Pt :30.11 g
<i>Bearded beards</i>	1	0	1	0	Max Lt:17cm	Pt max :68 g
<i>total</i>	51	3	44	4		

Nm: number of males; Nf: number of females; Ni: indeterminate number; Max Lt: Maximum Total Length; Lt min: minimum total length; Max Pt: Maximum Total Weight; Min Ton: Minimum Total Weight

1. Golden crucian carp, *Carassius autarus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Branching: Chordata

Class: Actinopterygii

Order: Cypriniformes

Superfamily: Cobitoidea

Family: Cyprinidae

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Subfamily: Cyprininae

Genus: *Carassius*

Species : *Carassius auratus* (Linnaeus, 1758)



Figure 15 : Photograph of *C. auratus* ; scale bar: 3cm

- **Description**

The golden crucian is different from the Crucian Crucian Carp in that it has a light colour, a concave dorsal fin and more gill rakers (Bruslé and Quignard, 2001).

- **Ecology**

The golden crucian is a fish that lives in calm, stagnant or quiet waters. It likes warm places and does not need a lot of oxygen or very good quality water. It tolerates changes in its environment well (Bruslé and Quignard, 2001).

- **Diet**

This species feeds on zooplacton, molluscs, plants and mainly detritus (about 50% of its mass) (Bruslé and Quignard, 2001).

- **Reproduction**

Its sexual maturity is conditioned by a high temperature (24°C) and a prolonged period of sunlight (16 hours per day) (Bruslé and Quignard, 2001).

2. Common Carassius, *Carassius carassius* (Linnaeus 1758)

Reign Classification : Animalia

Branch : Vertebrata

Class : Osteichthyes

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Order : Cypriniformes

Super family : Cobitoidea

Family : Cyprinidae

Subfamily : cyprininae

Genus : *Carassius*

Species : *Carassius Carassius* (Linnaeus 1758)



Figure 16 : Photograph of *C. carassius* ; scale bar: 3cm

- **Description**

The crucian carp has a very high and stocky head, compressed on the sides, it does not have barbels. It bears large scales, a high, convex dorsal fin, and a well-developed tail. Its pharyngeal teeth are well developed (Brusle and Quignard, 2001).

- **Ecology**

Crucian carp is a species of lake fish that lives in still water, warm or warm (it is sensitive to cold water). It is found on lake coasts, in shallow ponds, and in swamps (Martin *et al.* 1998).

- **Diets**

It feeds on plants and small benthic organisms, particularly chironomid larvae (Billard 1995).

- **Reproduction**

Males reach maturity at three years of age and females at four years of age. Its reproduction begins in spring, from April to June, at temperatures ranging from 15° to 19°C (Neveu, 2002; Kottelat and Freyhof, 2007).

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3. Barbel, *Barbus barbuis* (Linnaeus 1758)

Class: Teleosteens

Order: Cypriniformes

Family: Cyprinidae

Genus: *Barbus*

Species: *Barbus barbuis* (Linnaeus 1758)



Figure 17 : Photograph of *B. barbuis* ; scale bar: 3cm

- **Description**

Barbus is a genus with a fusiform body, cycloid scales, small eyes, mouth with thick and mobile lips, two pairs of barbels, hence the name barbel. In general, it has an integral lateral line and has denticulated or undenticulated pharyngeal bones (Aberkane and Iguer-Ouada 2011).

- **Ecology**

These are rheophilic and lithophilic species that favour gravel-bottomed watercourses. It becomes active mainly at night to feed, and sometimes during the day after a whirlpool (Bouhbouh, 2002).

- **Diet**

It feeds mainly on insect larvae and plant debris. The young (less than 13 cm) eat Dipteran and may fly larvae, mainly zoophagous larvae (Cherghou *et al.* 2002)

- **Reproduction**

It breeds from May to June until the beginning of July. During the first three years, the

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height is normal and genus-independent (12-13cm), with dimorphism very marked sexual from 4-5 years old. At 10 years of age, females measure 40 cm and males 27 cm (Aberkane and Iguer-Ouada, 2011).

4. Common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) (Linnaeus, 1758)

Reign : Animalia

Branch : Chordata

Class : Actinopterygii

Order : Cypriniformes

Super family : Cypriniformes

Family : Cyprinidae

Genus : *Cyprinus*

Species : *Cyprinus carpio* (Linnaeus 1758)



Figure 18 : Photograph of *C. carpio* ; scale bar: 5cm

- **Description**

Common carp can reach a maximum size of 150 cm and a weight of 35 kg. It has a moderately high body, protractile terminal mouth with 4 sensory barbels, no mouth teeth but pharyngeal teeth. It is covered with massive, well-established cycloid scales that cover the entire body except the head, and its dorsal fin is long and truncated (fig.20) (Brusle and Quignard, 2001).

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- **Ecology**

Carp prefer warm or warm, stagnant (lakes, ponds, reservoirs) or slow (lower streams in the bream zone).

The carp is a gregarious and benthic species, which lives in the middle of the night and tends to be sedentary. It has a preference for low-light environments, with seasonal fluctuations. It is in search of wooded areas (Martin *et al.*, 1998).

- **Diet**

Carp are omnivorous fish with a strong carnivorous tendency, with a wide variety of foods, and a preference for benthic foods (Michel and Oberdorff, 1995; Billard, 1997).

- **Reproduction**

The balance between the two sexes is favourable to females, with an increase in imbalance with age. For males, the age at first maturity is 2 years and for females 3 years (Billard 1995).

5. The Gardon, *Rutilus rutilus* (Linnaeus 1758)

Reign: Animalia

Branch: Chordated

Sub-branch: Vertebrates

Super-class: Fish

Class: Actinopterygians

Order: Cypriniformes

Family: Cyprinidae

Genus: *Rutilus*

Species: *Rutilus rutilus* (Linnaeus 1758)



Figure 19 : Photograph of *R. rutilus* ; scale bar: 3cm

- **Description**

R. rutilus has a long, flattened body, it can measure up to 30 cm long with a weight of 400 g, or even 1 kg. It has a short caudal peduncle, a domed back and a rounded ventral edge between the pelvic fins and the anus (fig.21) (Kottelat and Freyhof, 1972).

- **Ecology**

R. rutilus prefers quiet places such as lakes, ponds and reservoirs, but it can also live in rivers. This species prefers temperatures between 28 and 30°C (Jacques and Jean-Pierre, 2013).

- **Diet**

The roach is an omnivorous species that consumes plankton. Its prey is very varied: algae, macrophytes, insects, arachnids, molluscs and amphibians (Kassi *et al.*, 2018).

- **Reproduction**

The roach has a spring reproduction that lasts between April and July. Males mature sexually earlier than females (male: 2 to 3 years, females: 3 to 4 years) (Brusle and Quignard, 2001).

II. Growth Study Results

1. Age estimation

The age of the fish was estimated by both methods (scalimetry, otolithometry). The age of each species is mentioned in tables.

➤ Age-Size Relationship of *C. carassius*

The results of the Age-Size relationship of the species *C. carassius* are reported in Table 3. We notice that ages 1 and 5 are the least represented, with a population of only 1 individual,

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followed by the age of 3 years with 3 individuals and the age of 4 years which is the most represented with 4 individuals. We also note the absence of individuals who are 2 years old.

Khelifi *et al.* (2018) identified 7 age classes with heights ranging from 16 to 33 cm in the Beni Haroun Dam (Mila, Algeria).

Table 3: Age-Size Key of *C. carassius*

Height/age	1	2	3	4	5
[11,13[	1				
[13,15[			1		
[15,17[				1	
[17,19[			1		
[19,21[				2	
[21,23[			1	1	1

➤ **Age-Size Relationship of *C. autarus***

The results of the age-size relationship of the species *C. autarus* are reported in Table 4, we note the presence of 4 age classes where the age 4 years is the least represented, with 4 individuals, and the age of 2 years is the most represented with 15 individuals.

On the other hand, Boubouzal and Hamdous (2015) identified 4 age groups ranging from 2 to 5 years at the Taksebt dam (Tizi Ouzou), but the 3-year age class is the most represented.

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Table 4: Age-Size Key of *C. autarus*

Height/age	1	2	3	4
[11,13[7	6		
[13,15[1	2	1	
[15,17[3	1	
[17,19[3	3	3
[19,21[	1	1	1	1
[21,23[			2	1
[23,25[			1	

➤ Age-Size Relationship of *C. carpio*

The results of the age-size relationship of the species *C. carpio* show that the individual of size [14-15[has an age of 2 years and the individuals of tall [55-56[has an age of 5 years.

In the same species, Sahtout *et al.* (2017) observed six age groups ranging from 2 to 7 years in the Foum el-khanga dam, Souk-Ahras. In addition, the most predominant age groups are those of 2, 3 and 4 years old.

➤ Age-Size Relationship of *R. rutilus*

Only one individual of *R. rutilus* that is between 14 and 15 cm long was captured, it is 2 years old.

According to the study by Arab (2021) in 3 Dams; Ghrib, Genitra and Sekak, the age of two years is the most common with sizes of 16-17 cm, 13-14 cm and 14-16 cm respectively.

➤ Age-Size Relationship of *B. barbuis*

Only one individual of *B. barbuis* that is between 17 and 18 cm long was captured, it is 1-year-old.

On the other hand (Kraiem, 1842), he observed 5 age classes with dimensions ranging from 11 to 20 cm at Oued Ghezala (Tunisia).

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2. The Height-Weight Relationship

➤ The size-weight relationship of the *Carassius carassius* species

The results of the species' height-weight relationship *Carassius carassius* are reported in the following figure:

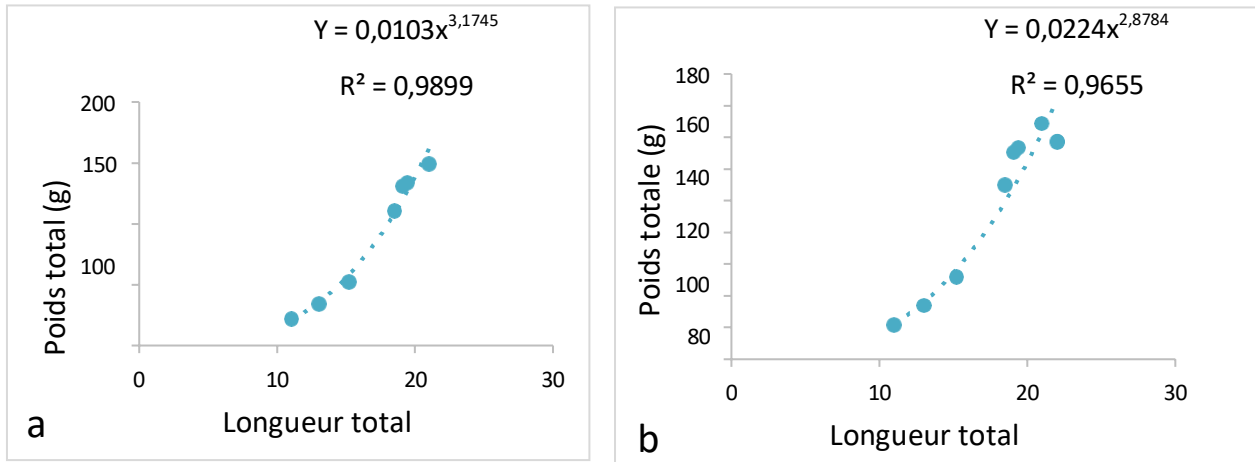


Figure 20 : Size-weight relationship of individuals of the species *Carassius carassius*.

a: females, b: the entire sample.

The value of the allometry coefficient (b) of the size-weight relationship for females is greater than 3 ($b = 3.1745$), which means an increasing allometry, so the weight increases faster than the length.

The value of the allometry coefficient (b) of the height-weight relationship for the whole sample is less than 3 ($b = 2.8784$), so there is a diminishing allometry between the two variables, the weight increases less quickly than the length.

The value of the correlation coefficient between total length and total weight in all individuals of *Carassius carassius* is close to 1, ($R^2 = 0.9899$), ($R^2 = 0.9655$). This indicates a good correlation between the two variables.

Khelifi *et al.* (2018), that males, females and the entire sample have a higher allometry, with an allometry coefficient greater than 3, a correlation coefficient close to 1, which gives a strong correlation.

➤ The size-weight relationship of the species *Carassius auratus*

The results of the size-weight relationship of the species *Carassius auratus* are reported in the following figure:

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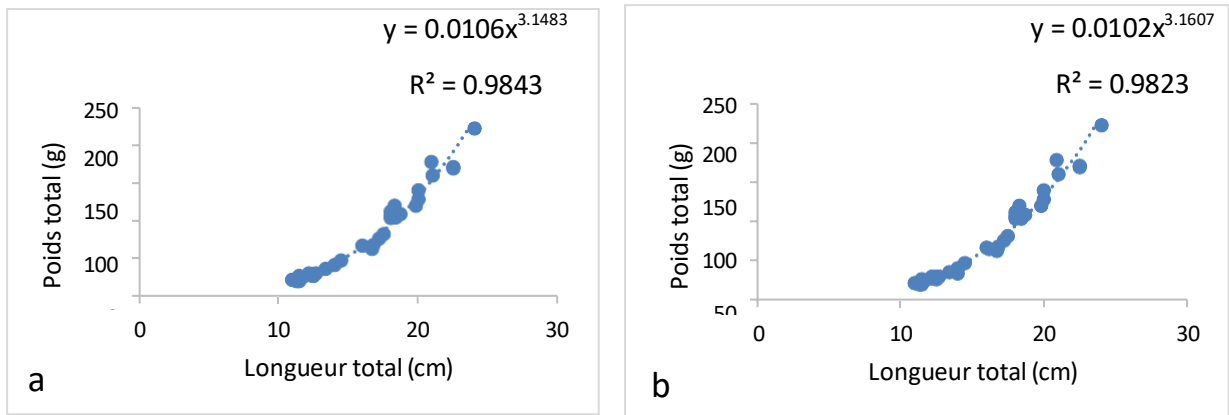


Figure 21 : Size-weight relationship of individuals of the species *Carassius auratus*.

a: females, b: the entire sample.

The value of the allometry coefficient (b) of the size-weight relationship for females and the whole sample is greater than 3 ($b_a=3.1483$ and $b_b=3.1607$ respectively), which means an increasing allometry, weight increases faster than length.

The value of the correlation coefficient between total length and total weight in all individuals of *Carassius auratus* is close to 1 ($R^2 = 9843$ for females and $R^2=9823$ for all individuals), which indicates a strong correlation between the two variables.

Similarly, Boubouzal and Hamdous (2015) obtained a value of $b = 3.25$ in the Taksebt dam in Tizi Ouzou for all individuals, and a correlation coefficient close to 1 ($R^2 = 0.966$).

➤ **Note:** Due to the presence of only one and two individuals in the species of *C. carpio*, *R. rutilus* and *B. barbuis*, the size-weight relationship was not calculated.

3. Condition Factor K

Figure 24 shows the evolution of the condition coefficient K as a function of the sampling date; In *C. auratus*, we see an increase in K values on 14/04/2024 ($K=9.30$) but it decreases to reach its minimum on 16/04/2024 ($K=3.34$). Then it increases gradually during the period from 16/04/2024 to 20/04/2024 ($K=32.08$). In *C. carassius*, the K shows a slight increase from 2.40 until it reaches its maximum (6.27) on 20/04/2024.

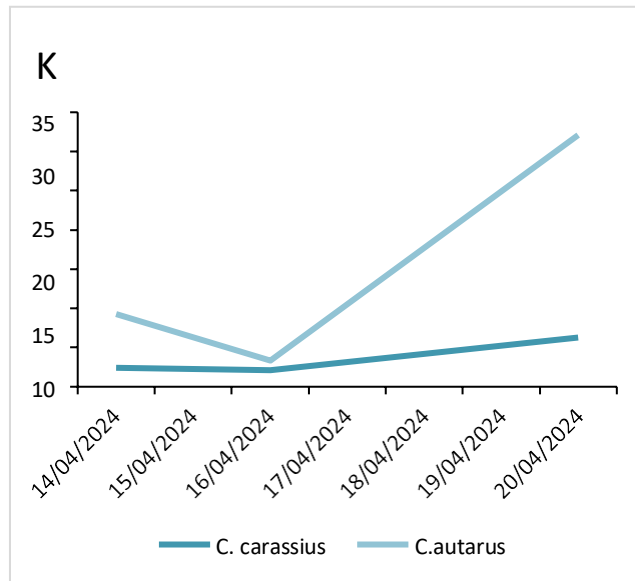


Figure 22 : The K-condition coefficient of *C. carassius* and *C. autarus* species.

Boubouzal and Hamdous (2015) and Khelifi *et al.* (2018) reported a condition coefficient K of less than 1 in *C. autarus* and *C. carassius* sampled between April and June.

III. Results of the reproduction study

1. Sex ratio (SR) study

Figure 25 and Table 8 show that the sex ratio is in favor of females for all the species studied due to high rates of femininity. The species *R. rutilus*, the sex ratio is not studied since the only individual captured has an indeterminate sex.

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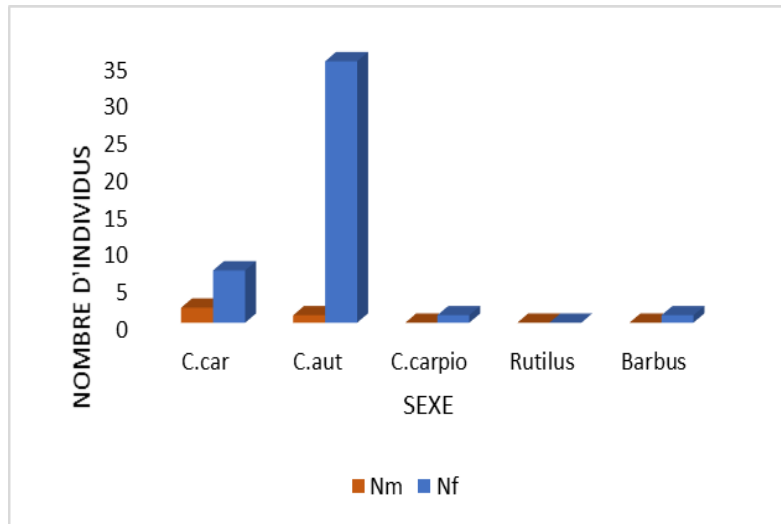


Figure 23 : Histogram representing the sex ratio according to species.

Table 5: Sex ratio rate between males and females of the 5 species

cash	Sex ratio	Sex ratio	Femininity rate
<i>C. carassius</i>	0,28571429	22,22222222	77,77777778
<i>C. autarus</i>	0,02857143	2,777777778	97,22222222
<i>C. carpio</i>	0	0	100
<i>Bearded B.</i>	0	0	100

In contrast to the sex ratio obtained by Belhadeb and Berdamane (2020) in *C. carassius* at the Ain Zada dam in Bordj Bou Arreridj, which is higher than the rate of femininity. Boubouzal and Hamdous (2015) in the Taksebt Dam (Tizi Ouzou), reported a slightly predominant femininity rate compared to the sex rates among *C. autarus*.

2. The gonado-somatic relationship

Figure 26 shows the variations in the RGS per day of sampling. We can observe that in *C. carassius*, the RGS is increasing and reaches its maximum on 20/04/2024 (RGS=21.45). In *C. autarus* the maximum RGS value is 27.29 recorded on 16/04/2024, then there is a slight decrease to the value of 20.74 on 20/04/2024.

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These increasing values may indicate that both (2) species are in the breeding season, and that the peak of RGS in *C. autarus* may co-occur with the egg-laying period.

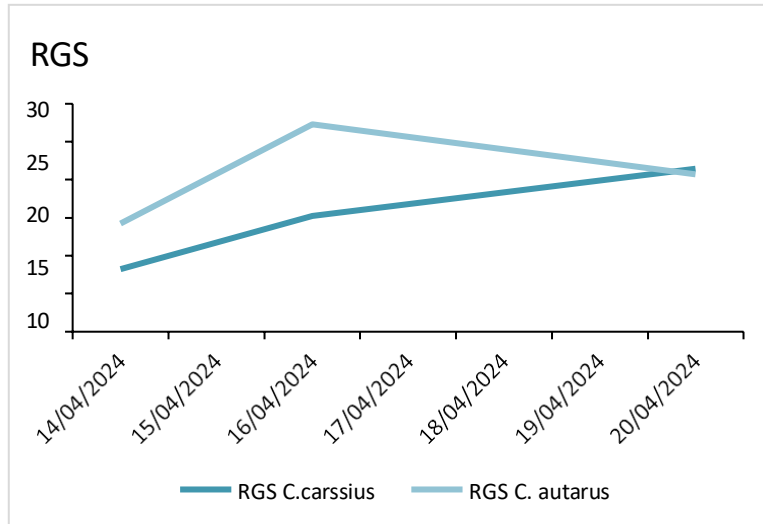


Figure 24 : the gonado-somatic ratio in *C. carrasius* and *C. autarus*.

Khélifi (2018), reported that reproduction is most marked in March and May in the Hammam Debagh dam, which is similar to our results. It seems that different physical and biotic factors influence egg-laying; The duration and timing of egg-laying are closely related to temperature variation and the period of photophase (Pajuelo and Lorenzo, 2000; Ouannes Ghorbel *et al*, 2002; Mouine *et al*, 2007).

Conclusion

Conclusion

During the present study we identified five (5) species belonging to the Cyprinidae family: The Crucian (*Carassius carassius*), the Crucian (*Carassius auratus*), the Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), the Garbon (*Rutilus rutilus*) and the Barbel (*Barbus barbus*).

Our results of age estimation, 5 classes were recorded in *C. carassius* and *C. carpio*, 4 in *C. auratus*, 2 classes in *R. rutilus* and 1 class in *B. barbus*.

The study of the size/weight relationship showed a decreasing allometry in the species *C. carassius* and a majoring allometry in the species *C. auratus*. The correlation coefficient R² is close to 1 in all species, which reflects a strong correlation between total length and total weight.

The condition factor K is greater than 1 in all species, which means that the environmental conditions are favourable overall. It is important to note that K values greater than 1 indicate healthy and healthy fish.

In *Carassius carassius* and *Carassius auratus*, the sex ratio is in favor of females over males.

The monthly evolution of gonado-somatic ratios in both species (*C. carassius* and *C. auratus*) shows that both species have a reproductive period

Prospects

- Sample selection should be over a long period of time and the number of samples should be high.
- Samples must be taken from deferential areas to obtain different species.
- Conduct research to estimate the age of fish.

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Abstract

During this work we studied the Algerian freshwater fish inhabiting the Tilesdit dam (Bechloul), Oued Lakhel dam (Ain Bessam) and Isseer dam (Lakhdaria) during the period of March and May. By determining the species, age, growth and reproduction of 51 individuals. We identified five species (*Carassius carassius*, *Carassius autarus*, *Cyprinus carpio*, *Rutilus rutilus* and *Barbus barbuis*). The age of the fish varies between 1 year and 5 years for sizes ranging from 11 to 55cm. The study of the size/weight relationship showed menirante allometry in *C. carassius* and majorante allometry in *C. autarus*. The condition factor K is greater than 1 in all species this result means that the environmental conditions are favorable overall. The sex ratio in *C. carassius* and *C. autarus* favours females over males. Increasing RGS values may indicate that both (2) species are in the breeding season and that the RGS peak in *C. autarus* may coincide with the laying period.

Key words: Tilesdit dam, Oued Lakhel dam, Oued Isser, growth, reproduction.

Résumé

Durant ce travail nous avons étudié les poissons d'eau douce algériens peuplant le barrage Tilesdit (Bechloul), barrage Oued Lakhel (Ain Bessam) et barrage Isseer (Lakhdaria) durant la période du mars et mai. En déterminant l'espèce, l'âge, la croissance et la reproduction de 51 individus. Nous avons identifié cinq espèces (*Carassius carassius*, *Carassius autarus*, *Cyprinus carpio*, *Rutilus rutilus* et *Barbus barbuis*). L'âge des poissons varie entre 1 an et 5 ans pour les tailles allant de 11 à 55cm. L'étude de la relation taille/poids a montré une allométrie ménirante chez l'espèce *C. carassius* et une allométrie majorante chez l'espèce *C. autarus*. Le facteur de condition K est supérieur à 1 chez toutes les espèces ce résultat signifie que les conditions environnementales sont favorables dans l'ensemble. La sex-ratio chez *C. carassius* et *C. autarus* est en faveur des femelles par rapport aux males. Les valeurs croissantes de RGS peuvent indiquer que les deux (2) espèces sont en saison de reproduction et que le pic de RGS chez *C. auratus* peut coïncider avec la période de ponte.

Les mots clés: Le barrage de Tilesdit, le barrage de Oued Lakhel, Oued Isser, croissance, reproduction.

ملخص

خلال هذا العمل درسنا أسماك المياه العذبة الجزائرية التي تسكن سد تيليسديت (بشلول) وسد واد لخيل (عين بسام) وسد إيسير (الأخضرية) *Carassius carassius* و *Carassius autarus* خلال فترة مارس ومايو. من خلال تحديد الأنواع والعمر والنمو والتكاثر لـ 51 فردًا. حددنا خمسة أنواع يتراوح عمر الأسماك بين 1 سنوات و 5 سنوات لأحجام تتراوح من 11 إلى 55 سم. أظهرت دراسة علاقة الحجم/الوزن قياس ألومترية مينيرانت في عامل الحالة *C. autarus*. في *C. carassius* majorante allometry إلى 55 سم. أظهرت دراسة علاقة الحجم/الوزن قياس ألومترية مينيرانت في تفضل الإناث على *C. carassius* و *C. autarus* أكبر من 1 في جميع الأنواع وهذا يعني أن الظروف البيئية مواتية بشكل عام. نسبة الجنس في K قد تتزامن مع فترة التكاثر *C. autarus* في RGS المتزايدة إلى أن كلا النوعين (2) في موسم التكاثر وأن ذروة RGS الذكور. قد تشير قيم

الكلمات المفتاحية: سد تيليسديت، سد واد لكحل، واد إيسر، النمو، التكاثر